



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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UNITED STATES FISHING INDUSTRY TO GIVE AID TO WORLD FISHERY NUTRITIONAL CONCLAVE

Various segments of the American commercial fishing industry, meeting in Washington, have pledged their support in making the coming world nutritional fishery conference a success, the Department of the Interior reported today.

The conference will be held in Washington, D.C., September 19-27, 1961, under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It will be officially known as the International Conference on Fish in Nutrition. About 400 representatives from more than 50 nations are expected to attend.

A suggested agenda for the conference is being prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization. Speakers will include some of the world's leading scientists in this field. Numerous other arrangements for the meeting will be handled by the Bureau.

Initial steps for the conference were taken last year when the American delegation to the Tenth Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome urged the calling of such a meeting. The State Department accepted the invitation of the FAO for the United States to be the host country.

The fundamental purpose of the meeting is to assemble the scattered information on the nutritive value of fish, to assess this information and to stimulate future scientific investigation on this food source.

One result would be to delineate the role of fish and fishery products in adding to the supply of protein foods in both developed and underdeveloped areas of the world.

Other objectives are to stimulate international exchange of information pertaining to fish as a food and to prevent needless duplication of research; to provide the basis for future conferences on more specific aspects of the nutritional value of fishery products; to provide technical and economic information on

available marine food resources to combat present world-wide nutritional deficiencies and to meet future expanded world food needs; to provide information on present world production and utilization of fishery products and to determine factors that may enhance the availability and utilization of these products.

The conference will consider the nutritive aspects of fish and fishery products both as they pertain to human needs and to use in animal feed. It will be a scientific meeting with scientists from many nations, drawn from the industry, educational institutions and government, presenting reports.

Main topics which are being considered include such things as the role of fish in world nutrition, the chemical composition of fish and fishery products, contribution of fish and fishery products to the diets of various nations; fishery products in animal nutrition; possibilities for increasing fish consumption.

Under such main titles would be reports on the amino acid composition of the protein in fishery products; fats, oils and related components; food values of fresh fish compared with processed fishery products; minerals and vitamins in fish; incidence of malnutrition, by regions; fish in dietetics, including geriatric diets; utilization of fish flour; fish proteins and their importance in preventing malnutrition; fish derivatives in feed for swine, calves and poultry, and for furbearing animals; economic and social incentives for increasing production; methods of consumer education.

The Washington meeting of the representatives of several fishery organizations was called by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to acquaint the industry with current thinking on program and arrangements and to solicit suggestions and comments. The group expressed itself generally in favor of the proposed program and made several suggestions regarding it.

Bureau officials are working actively with interested groups in the United States to complete recommendations on the subject matter for the conference agenda. FAO will consider these recommendations, and those of the member nations, in preparing the final agenda. Once the agenda is firm, FAO will issue to the world's scientists, active in research that will further the use of fish as food, an invitation for them to offer reports on their work. These reports will be screened by an FAO scientific committee and those of pertinence and high scientific quality will be presented at the conference.

The fishery organization representatives who attended the Washington meeting included: Charles Bevis, Executive Secretary, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Miami, Florida; Richard Reed, Executive Secretary, Main Sardine Council, Bangor, Maine; Ray Full, President, Ohio Commercial Fisherman's Association, Vermillion, Ohio; Mrs. Dorothy Klein, Co-owner of Klein's Fish Market, Saukville, Wisconsin; James Pinkerton, Manager, Ketchikan Cold Storage Company, Ketchikan, Alaska; Charles Carry, Executive Director, California Fish Cannery Association, Terminal Island, California; W. M. Chapman, Director, Resources Commission, San Diego, California; Dr. Sven Lassen, Technical Consultant, Van Camp Sea Food Co., Terminal Island, California; Dr. C. A. Greenleaf, Associate Director, National Cannery Association, Washington Research Laboratory; Steel Culbertson, Industrial Products Division, National Fisheries Institute, and Harris Magnusson, Technology Division, National Fisheries Institute, Washington, D. C.; David Wallace, Executive Secretary, Cyber Institute of North America, Annapolis, Maryland.

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